

Wasatch County

Firefighting

Equipment



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Fire cart restored

By SONNI SCHWINN

Herald Correspondent

HEBER CITY — A turn-of-the-century chemical fire cart, used for about 50 years to fight fires in Soldier Summit, has been restored by the Wasatch County Fire Department and is on permanent display in the foyer of the Heber City Municipal Building.

Art Mair, a retired Heber City fireman who restores vintage automobiles, donated the labor and the fire department paid about \$600 from fundraising projects for materials and other expenses required to return the cart to its original condition.

Don Smith said he and the late Harvey Bronson acquired the cart from Soldier Summit during the early 50s, when they were Heber City firemen. He said it had been deteriorating in a chicken coop and that he and Bronson got permission from the Soldier Summit town council to bring it to Heber City and take care of it.

He said it is a handcart which required manpower rather than any form of horsepower to get to fires. It used a dry pressurized



11-27-90

This restored fire cart fought fires for 50 years in Soldier Summit. It is now on display in Heber.

Sonni Schwinn Photo

chemical to fight fires until fire apparatus from Price and Helper arrived, during Soldier Summit's mining days. That was long before CO2 was used to suppress fires, but Smith didn't know which chemical

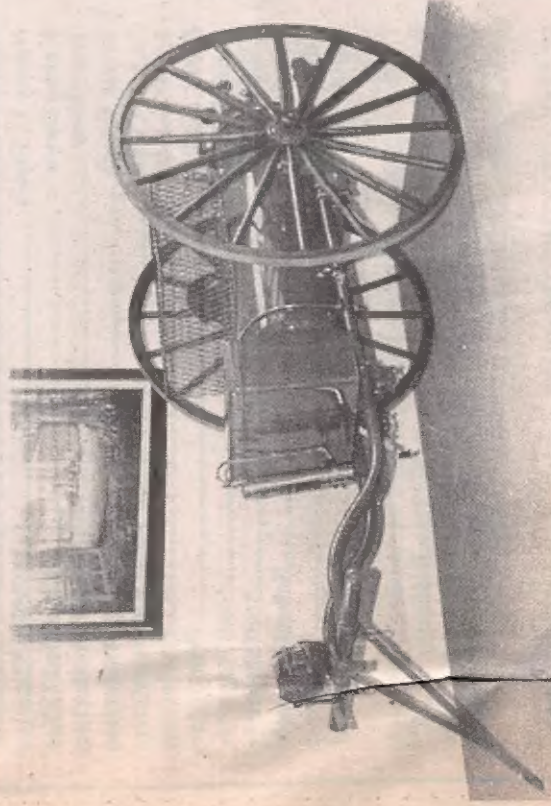
was used at that time.

The cart was kept with the other fire engines when they were parked in the old garage next to the former Heber City office building and brought out for parades, but wasn't otherwise displayed. Clyde Montgomery, secretary of the fire department, said the fire-fighters decided about four years ago to restore the vintage fire cart before it deteriorated any further.

Restored Antique Fire Cart on Display in Heber City

11-24-90

A turn-of-the-century chemical fire cart, used for about 50 years to fight fires in Soldier Summit, has been restored by the Wasatch County Fire Department and is on permanent display in the foyer of the Heber City Municipal Building. Art Mair, a retired Heber City fireman who restores vintage automobiles, donated the labor and the fire department paid about \$600 from fundraising projects for materials and other expenses required to return the cart to its original condition.



This turn-of-the-century firefighting handcart, used during the mining days by Soldier Summit firefighters, has been restored to mint condition by Wasatch County firefighters and is on display in the Heber City Municipal Building.

Don Smith said he and the late Harvey Bronson acquired the cart from Soldier Summit during the early 50s, when they were Heber firemen. He said it had been deteriorating in a chicken coop and that he and Bronson got permission from the town council to bring it to Heber City and take care of it. He said it is a handcart which required manpower rather than any form of horsepower to get to fires. It used a dry pressurized chemical to fight fires until fire apparatus from Price and Helper arrived, during Soldier Summit's mining days. That was long before CO₂ was used to suppress fires, but Smith didn't know which chemical was used at that time.

The cart was kept with the other fire engines when they were parked in the old garage next to the former Heber City office building, and brought out for parades, but wasn't otherwise displayed. Clyde Montgomery, secretary of the fire department, said the firefighters decided about four years ago to restore the vintage fire cart before it deteriorated any further.

One of the biggest expenses was replating all the brass, he said. And many layers of paint had to be stripped from the wheels to get down to the original oak.

But when the restoration was completed, there was no place to display the cart, so it was kept for a year in the garage at the Heber Valley Sewage Treatment Plant.

Then, last summer, the firefighters got permission from the Heber City Council to display it in the foyer of the municipal building, which is particularly appropriate because the building is a historical landmark that also was restored a couple of years ago after standing empty and deteriorating for several decades.

